

2019-2020 VISITING SCHOLAR LECTURE SERIES

Friday, October 4, 2019 - 2:30 PM • Dunning 14



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**TALK: Monkeys, Math,
and the Developing Brain**

ABSTRACT

Primitive logical and perceptual processes form the basis of human cognitive development and can point to the origins of human thought. Our research studies the origins of human mathematical cognition by examining the evolutionary, cultural, and developmental influences on mathematical cognition. We use comparative cognitive and neuroimaging methods with multiple populations including non-human primates, developing children, industrialized people in US, and remote people in the Amazon. The studies reveal basic universal logic across cultures, human evolutionary homologs of mathematical thought in non-human primates, and their neural origin in human children. By conducting research at multiple levels of analysis we begin to disentangle the evolutionary influences on human cognition from the more proximal influences of culture and individual learning.

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Jessica Cantlon is the Ronald J. and Mary Ann Zdrojkowski Professor of Developmental Neuroscience, Associate Professor of Psychology in the Department of Psychology of Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Carnegie Mellon University. Dr. Cantlon's area of expertise is Cognitive Neuroscience, Cognitive Science, Developmental Psychology.